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OLC 71-0683

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20 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel,
Senate Armed Services Committee

1. At his request I met today with Mr. Ed Braswell at about the same time the Director and Mr. Maury were meeting with Chairman Stennis. Braswell said the Chairman and he had talked with Secretary Laird this afternoon about an appearance before the full Armed Services Committee to discuss Laos. Secretary Laird, U. Alexis Johnson (Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs), and Ambassador Godley will meet with the Committee on Thursday. Braswell wanted us to know that during their conversations with Secretary Laird the Secretary volunteered to have the Director also appear before the full Committee on Thursday, commenting that the Director had already discussed Laos fully with the Foreign Relations Committee. Braswell said he thought it would be a bad idea to have the Director up on this subject. He feels that persons closest to the policy-making role in Laos should be required to state what the Administration's position is and what programs are contemplated there.

2. I told Braswell I understood that efforts were being made to eliminate or at least reduce the Agency's role in operations in Laos in Fiscal 1973, but I did not know precisely what the Director's views were on the subject. I thanked him, however, for passing on to us the information about Thursday's session.

3. Mr. Braswell also asked if I would get information for him on Communist China's atomic energy programs and any significant developments concerning their military programs. I reminded Braswell he still retained a copy of the prepared statement which the Director gave to the full Armed Services Committee on 4 March of this year which covered these subjects in depth. I told him I would check with our people, however, to see what developments had taken place since that briefing. OSR and OSI are preparing this material.

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JOURNAL

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1. (Secret - JMM) Called Walt Rostow in Texas, in response to his call to the Director, and provided him with information on certain Agency congressional briefings relating to operations against the North Vietnamese during the spring and summer of 1964. Rostow said this was exactly the information he wanted and was most appreciative.

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2. (Confidential - JMM) [redacted] CI Staff, and I met with Representative Paul Rogers (D., Fla.) in response to his inquiry to the Secretary of Defense regarding a clandestine services report on arms and drug smuggling between [redacted]

area of Southeast Asia. We explained our reluctance to provide Mr. Rogers 25X1A with the raw intelligence report, which he accepted. Mr. [redacted] then briefed him on the general drug situation in Southeast Asia, but explained that we had no precise information on the allegations in this report regarding arms being supplied the KMT by the ChiNats. Mr. Rogers professed to find this ignorance on our part "amazing" and said he couldn't understand why we couldn't find out whether large quantities of arms, presumably of U.S. origin, were or were not being transported to the KMT. We explained that we had more important targets in the area, and suggested that if they were of U.S. origin he might get better information from American military officials in Taiwan. However, we offered to look into the matter further and report back to him in the near future.

3. (Secret - JMM) Attended a meeting in the State Department to discuss how to handle Senator Symington's 7 July letter to the Secretary of State requesting details regarding agreements and arrangements with foreign governments for the exchange of classified intelligence. See Memo for Record for details.

4. (Unclassified - GLC) Mr. Wymberley DeR Coerr, Deputy to Ray Cline, INR, State Department, called to say he was preparing some views for the Department on the Cooper and Church bills and wanted to coordinate with us on the approach to be taken. We expect they will be placed on the agenda for LIG discussion, but it was agreed we would keep in touch as we prepare responses on these measures.

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5. (Secret - GLC) Accompanied Mr. [REDACTED], TBL/FE, to a meeting with Ed Braswell and John Woolsey, on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. This was in response to Braswell's request for assistance in preparing "facts and figures on Laos" for the Chairman's background use in connection with Committee consideration of the Symington amendment no. 160 to the military procurement authorization bill (see Mr. [REDACTED] Memo for the Record).

Braswell provided us with a copy of a letter dated 13 July 1971 from the Chairman to Secretary Laird expressing dissatisfaction with information submitted to the Committee by DOD on the funding of activities of various operations in Laos. The letter also requests that the Secretary appear before the Committee "as early as practicable." It goes on to specify the precise information needed by the Committee.

Braswell also showed us a letter from Senator Symington to Chairman Stennis expressing his dissatisfaction with the amount of information available to the Senate on intelligence activities, specifically the conduct of "the secret war in Laos." The letter points out the desirability of establishing the same type of reporting procedures for CIA as are required of the Atomic Energy Commission in the AEC Act. It also recommends that a joint investigation into intelligence activities be conducted by the Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Foreign Relations Committees.

6. (Unclassified - GLC) Mr. Harold Wills, Locksmith to the House of Representatives, called and asked for our assistance in handling a safe problem. This was turned over to [REDACTED] of Security, who will put someone in direct contact with Wills.

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